THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWA. MY); (a) The pendency of cases in the Supreme Court for 10 years or more as on 1st January, 1991 is as given below; —

(i) Civil Appeals 624

(ii) Criminal Appeals 802

(iii) Revision cases No revision petitionsare filed in the Supreme Court.

(b) and (c) A number of important constitutional and urgent public interest matters have necessitated setting up of more than one Constitutional Bench for considerable period of time resulting in delays in other cases. The Supreme Court has taken steps to expedite hearing of cases by re-arranging the business of the Court, grouping of cases involving common issues, use of computers, etc.

News item regarding heavy duty on yarn

*179. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item titled "'Recession hits powerloom units in Bhiwandi" which appeared in the Business and Political Observer, dated January 25, 1991 wherein the plight of three-and-a-half to four lakh powerlooms affected adversely by the steep increase in the raw material cost due to heavy duty imposed on yarn has been highlighted;

(b) whether it is a fact that the duty-imposed on yarn to raise the revenue has come at a time when there has been a slump in the local and export markets for yarn, adding to the reduction in operating capacity; and

(c) if so, what steps Governnment propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Export markets are not affected by increase in excise duty, since exports are not effectively subjected to any excise duty. As regards local markets, the figures of production (till 15-2-1991) for polyester filament yam, and nylon filament yarn used by the powerloom sector do not indicate any significant fall in production after the duty hike on 15-12-1990.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Agricultural loans not covered by Loan Waiver Scheme

*180. SHRI M. S. GURUPADA-SWAMY:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) what is the estimated amount of agricultural loans excluding the amount covered under the loan waiver scheme outstanding at the end of 1990, State-wise;

(b) what is the amount of loan recovered since the beginning of 1990 till the close of the year State-wise;

(c) what are the reasons for the slow recovery of the recoverable farm loans during 1990;

(d) what is the amount of farm loans, if any, extended during 1990 State-wise; and

(e) what are the possibilities of recovery of the recoverable loans in 1991?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA); (a) The outstanding loan of public sector banks, regional rural banks and cooperatives, for agricultural and allied activities was Rs. 28617 crores, as at the end of June, 1990. The figures after this date not available. It will not be possible to identity as to now much portion of the above outstanding loans, State-